

**Amendments to the Claims:**

Claims 1-20 (Cancelled).

21. (Currently Amended) A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:  
a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;  
a card transferring mechanism that takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot; and  
a detector disposed between the card slot and the card transferring mechanism;  
a control circuit coupled to an output of the detector which detects a first condition ~~and operable to detect a first condition~~ through the detector output wherein the magnetic card is inserted from the card slot, the control circuit further detects, ~~operable to detect~~, after the first condition is detected, a second condition wherein the output of the detector is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered which is indicative of slowing down of the magnetic card ~~and before the card transferring mechanism is driven~~, wherein after the control circuit detects the second condition, the card transferring mechanism is driven to take in the magnetic card.

22. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the detector is a magnetic head.

23. (Currently Amended) A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:  
a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;  
a card transferring mechanism that takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot;  
a shutter which opens or closes a card guiding path guiding the magnetic card inserted from the card slot to the card transferring mechanism;  
a detector disposed between the card slot and the shutter; and  
a shutter controller coupled to an output of the detector which opens ~~and operable to open~~ the card guiding path by driving the shutter after the shutter controller detects ~~through the detector output~~ that the movement of the magnetic card is restricted by the shutter through the detector output.

24. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 23 wherein the detector is a magnetic head and the shutter controller detects that the movement of the magnetic card is restricted by the shutter by monitoring the magnetic head output for a reduction in output level that indicates slowing down of the magnetic card.

25. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 23, further comprising a drive control circuit that includes the shutter controller, wherein after the drive control circuit detects that the movement of the magnetic card is restricted by the shutter, the drive control circuit opens the shutter and drives the card transferring mechanism to take in the magnetic card.

26. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 25, wherein after the drive control circuit detects that the movement of the magnetic card is restricted by the shutter, the drive control circuit opens the shutter, waits a predetermined time period, and then activates the card transferring mechanism to take in the magnetic card.

27. (Currently Amended) A magnetic card transaction apparatus comprising:  
a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;  
a card transferring mechanism that takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot;  
a guiding path that guides the magnetic card inserted from the card slot to the card transferring mechanism;  
a detector; and  
a drive control circuit coupled to an output of the detector ~~that~~ drives the card transferring mechanism to transfer the magnetic card from the guiding path to an inside of the magnetic card transaction apparatus after the drive control circuit detects through an output of the detector which detects a first condition ~~that wherein~~ the magnetic card is inserted in to card slot arrives at the card transferring mechanism and after the first condition is detected, a second condition wherein the output of the detector is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered which is indicative of slowing down of the magnetic card, ~~that then~~ the magnetic card is stopped at the card transferring mechanism.

28. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 27 wherein the detector is a magnetic head.

29. (Currently Amended) A magnetic card transaction apparatus for preventing an unauthorized reading of a magnetic card, comprising:

a card slot from which a magnetic card is inserted;

a card transferring mechanism that, when activated, takes in the magnetic card inserted from the card slot;

a detector; and

a drive control circuit operable to detect through an output of the detector a first condition wherein the magnetic card comes in contact with the card transferring mechanism or in contact with a shutter disposed between the card slot and the card transferring mechanism such that the magnetic card is stopped by the card transferring mechanism or by the shutter, the drive control circuit further operable to open the shutter or activate the card transferring mechanism when the first condition is detected

wherein the drive control circuit is operable to detect through an output of the detector a second condition when the magnetic card is stopped once the first condition is detected.

30. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein the detector is a magnetic head and the first condition is detected when the output of the magnetic head is reduced to substantially zero or is lowered.

31. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein when the first condition is detected, the drive control circuit opens the shutter.

32. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein when the first condition is detected, the drive control circuit activates the card transferring mechanism.

33. (Previously Presented) The magnetic card transaction apparatus according to claim 29 wherein when the first condition is detected, the drive control circuit opens the shutter, waits for a predetermined time period and then activates the card transferring mechanism.